

THE JERUSALEM POST

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**The Week In
The Knesset**
By Gerda Luft

THERE is not much use barking back to the past and sighing over lost opportunities. But listening to the debate on the government's new economic policy one could not but reflect how different and how much easier things would be at present if we could face the crisis with a broad coalition. Ministers keep talking about the need for public good-will and cooperation, yet they could only secure a narrow majority for the dangerous operation which they propose to perform on the economic body of the country. The debate proved again that on top of the enormous economic difficulties, political dangers loom large.

THE debate did some useful work in bringing home to members and to the public the seriousness of the position. At long last some figures on dollar income and expenditure, which until now had only been whispered in the lobbies and discussed in the Finance Committee, were quoted in the House. The plain truth that even with severe cuts in expenditure we shall face a deficit of \$100m. during the next year should make a greater impression than the most eloquent speeches. If a company or a household faced an enormous deficit, the normal reaction would be: how can we spend less and earn more? But the politicians, secure in the knowledge that the most concerned with the problem of who is going to bear the burden? The danger is that in trying to push it on to someone else's shoulders, it might not be shouldered at all.

DESPITE party differences, however, the basic need of spending less and earning more was accepted by all parties from Mapai to the Right. Differences centred round the methods to be adopted to stabilize currency and to transfer productive capacity to essential goods and services. Mr. Badar, of Herut, presented the outline of his own New Economic Policy, quoting extensively from Keynes, and he gave the impression that he was ready for a fight with the experts of the Treasury not on problems of high policy but on financial and monetary technique. Mr. Bernstein, while advocating a wide measure of decontrol (including foreign currency), emphasized that credits and imports should still be controlled, thus guaranteeing the channelling of investments into essential branches. Thus at least during the first day of the debate, a genuine discussion developed on the remedies to be used for our economic ailments; and attention was concentrated and appreciative. The second day brought much repetition and led to the final voting which split the House in the familiar pattern of coalition versus opposition.

ANSWERING the first round of speakers, Mr. Kaplan revealed that until now the Treasury has encountered difficulties in laying its hands on dollars collected abroad. Many institutions were reluctant to hand over their funds at the official rate. Here we have another example of the secrecy with which our financial position has been shrouded. Not only the general public, but many Knesset members as well, were under the impression that money collected abroad "for Israel," under whatever flag or name, was automatically channelled into the coffers of the Treasury. It appears now that the fictitious exchange rate made many institutions hold back or bargain for more favourable agreements.

THE voting gave the Government the green light for their new plan. But it gives little indication that the House is ready to back the Cabinet in the coming fight.

Anglo-Egyptian Talks Next Week

CAIRO, Saturday, (Reuters). — Prime Minister Ali Maher Pasha told reporters today that negotiations with Britain are expected to start in Cairo towards the end of next week. He said he greatly appreciated the offer of good offices made by various countries, including Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, "but now we shall have direct contacts with the British."

When asked about reported Arab moves to reach a settlement with Israel, Premier Maher Pasha said "this matter is not for Egypt alone to decide. It is up to all Arab countries together."

The Egyptian newspaper "Al-Salagh" said it is understood the question of peace settlements with Israel will top the agenda of the Arab League Council due to meet in Cairo in the third week of March. The newspaper added that this question must be issued against the background of the proposed Western Middle East Command which the Arab countries were now reported to be increasingly in favour of joining.

3-Day Strike Ends In North Syria

The three-day strike in Aleppo and the northern Syrian provinces ended yesterday. The "rebellious" north broke out against certain aspects of the recent land reforms, income tax changes and book-keeping laws introduced by the army junta in Damascus. In Damascus, Colonel Adib Shihabiyah, Syria's "strong man," announced the extension of his "social reform" policy with the introduction of free medical services through out the country for all needy persons. The services, according to the announcement, will include hospitalization treatment at Government clinics, infant welfare centres and maternity hospitals.

Thousands of homeless villagers from the northern areas, victims of last week's floods, are wandering from province to province in search of work and shelter. Damage from the floods is officially estimated at \$1,500,000.

Twin Sites for Libyan House

BENGHAZI, Saturday. — The new Libyan Parliament will convene one year at Benghazi and the next at Tripoli, it was learned here today. Informed circles said a decree would be published allowing Parliament to move annually between the new nation's two capitals. Meanwhile police reinforcements were reported today to be on their way from Cyrenaica to Tripoli after disturbances during Libya's first general elections, which have cost at least 12 lives.

Tripartite Calm

Tripartite Calm was reported today, but the curfew which was imposed on trouble centres on Thursday was still in force. About 78 per cent of Libya's 400,000 male voters

Israel Mediation In Campaign Crisis

By Jesse Zel Lurie
POST Correspondent
NEW YORK, Saturday. — Mrs. Myerson will be first of many Israel Cabinet members to come here in the next few months to help the UJA and the Bond Drive and to try to eliminate friction between their two leaders, official Israel sources said today. This is the first time Israel officials have talked for publication about the deep-seated differences in timing and procedure which exist between the two chief fund-raising organizations for Israel. Israelis admit that these differences cannot be compromised by the personal mediation of influential Cabinet Ministers—just as the recent Jerusalem Conference with Mr. Ben Gurion was inconclusive—unless one side or other gives up what it now considers essential.

To eliminate the impression of UJA leaders, however, that Israel favours the Bond Drive—which may have arisen in part from the fact that many Cabinet Ministers, beginning with the Prime Minister, have come here for the Bond Drive during the past year—Mrs. Myerson and those who follow her will do their utmost to make their contributions as equal as possible to those of the UJA.

Indonesian Cabinet Falls Over U.S. Aid

DUAKARTA, Saturday, (Reuters). — Dr. Mohamed Sukirno's 10-month-old Indonesian cabinet resigned today in protest against the acceptance of American aid under the Mutual Security Act without the Cabinet's prior knowledge. President Soekarno was faced with the task of appointing someone to form a new Government. A brief discussion in Cabinet followed the acceptance of U.S. aid. Sukirno's cabinet had been authorized to negotiate an exchange of letters with the U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr. Morris Cochran.

POLICE MAKE BIG TUNISIA ARMS HAUL

TUNIS, Saturday, (Reuters). — Police found 15,000 rounds of British, Italian and German ammunition in what a Resistance spokesman described as "one of the biggest caches found since the beginning of the arms search in Tunisia" at Medina in the South today.

DON'T COERCE TORIES BY STRIKING—Morrison

LONDON, Saturday, (Reuters). — It is wrong to try to coerce an elected Government through industrial disturbances, Mr. Herbert Morrison, former Foreign Secretary and leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party, said here last night. "It is for Parliament and the electorate to decide what the Government should do," he said. "In Parliament and among the voters industrial labour is well represented."

Greek Representative Named

HAKIRYA, Saturday. — M. Jann Moschopoulos, a Greek Consul General in Jerusalem, has been appointed Greek Diplomatic Representative to Israel by M. Sophocles Venizelos, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Greece.

Japan Press Lashes Out Against U.S. Extraterritoriality

TOKYO, Saturday, (Reuters). — Japanese resentment against U.S. post-treaty plans for keeping troops here has exploded in a barrage of press criticism following reports that U.S. forces will have extraterritorial rights in Japan. The newspapers claim the U.S. is bringing pressure to bear on Japan in current negotiations on a pact between the two countries, and threatening not to ratify the peace treaty until Japan approves U.S. conditions for "lasting peace."

Communists Charge U.N. 'Massacre'

PANMUNJOM, Saturday, (Reuters). — The Communists today accused the U.N. of the "barbarous massacre of large numbers of prisoners captured and 'interned' in Khabov, an island camp." A formal protest note read by Chinese Colonel Cheng Wen at a 90-minute meeting here to discuss prisoner exchange referred to "the sanguinary incident of Monday, January 25, 1952, in which 123 Koreans and an American soldier were killed at the camp."

Communist Cell In Iran Army Smashed

TEHERAN, Saturday, (UPI). — An Iranian army spokesman today announced the destruction of a Communist network within the army with the arrest of eight officers and the detention of 50 others for questioning.

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Three Killed In Lorry Collision

BEERSHEBA, Saturday. — Three persons were killed and injured when a Kibbutz service truck collided with a Public Works Department lorry two kilometres south of here yesterday morning.

Percentage Doubtful

Government circles, however, thought the two-thirds percentage was incorrect and reported that the amount would vary in each individual case in proportion to the various dollar-pound rates and to the relative necessity of the items produced.

Taxi and Bus Fares Up 25%

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — A 25 per cent increase in taxi and bus fares has been authorized by the Government, Mr. M. Bar, Controller of Road Transport, told The Post tonight. The same increase applies to road haulage rates. He said that the increase was of a temporary nature as it would take two to three months for the authorities to consider each individual case.

Storm Subsides, Moves North

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The depression today moved from Israel to northern Iraq. Trees were uprooted, awnings damaged and windows smashed in the gale which forced the only ship in the Port here to put out to sea. The vessel, with a cargo of sugar, returned today.

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NATO Council Agrees To 50 Division Europe Army

Accord on German Share in Defence

BONN, Saturday, (AP). — The three Western occupation powers in Germany tonight sent to the NATO conference at Lisbon a German request for a reduction in the proposed German contribution to the Western defence budget. The figure proposed by NATO's "Three Wise Men" was 11,250m. marks (\$2,670m.), according to authoritative sources.

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German Contribution Envisaged

Bulgaria Warns Turkey on NATO

BERLIN, Saturday, (AP). — Bulgaria today warned that Turkey's entry into NATO "constitutes an immediate threat against the Bulgarian People's Republic." A note handed by the Bulgarian Foreign Minister to the Turkish Charge d'Affaires at Sofia stated that Bulgaria "cannot remain indifferent to this hostile policy."

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